

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A paper feed device, comprising:

a setting plate on which a plurality of sheets of paper are placed;

a support unit which elevatably supports the setting plate, and elevates the setting plate when the support unit receives a driving force;

a power transmission mechanism engageable with the support unit to transmit the driving force to the support unit;

a driving unit which drives operatively connected to the power transmission mechanism to provide the driving force via the power transmission mechanism to the support unit so that a uppermost sheet of paper placed on the setting plate is positioned at a predetermined height for feeding the sheets of paper;

~~a power transmission mechanism which transmits the driving force from the driving unit to the support unit;~~

a link mechanism which cuts that includes a first portion and a second portion, the first portion connected to the power transmission mechanism to cut off the transmission of the driving force to the support unit; and

an operation lever which is operatively connected to the second portion of the link mechanism, the operation lever being switched between a first state and a second state, wherein:

when the operation lever is in the first state, the power transmission mechanism transmits the driving force to the support unit;

when the operation lever is in the second state, the link mechanism ~~cuts~~
disconnects the power transmission mechanism from the support unit to cut off the
transmission of the driving force to the support unit; and
~~the support unit is disengaged from the driving unit by an operation of the link~~
~~mechanism.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The paper feed device according to claim 1, wherein
when the operation lever is in the first state, the operation lever abuts against ~~one-an~~ end
~~edges-edge of each~~ of the sheets of paper placed on the setting plate to align the ~~one-end edges~~
~~edge of each~~ of the sheets of paper.

3. (Original) The paper feed device according to claim 2, wherein when the
operation lever is in the first state, a position where the operation lever abuts against the
sheets of paper is adjustable.

4. (Original) The paper feed device according to claim 1, wherein:
the support unit includes a power-receiving gear, which moves up the setting
plate when the power-receiving gear is rotated in one direction;

the power transmission mechanism includes:
a sun gear rotated by the driving unit; and
a planet gear, which revolves around the sun gear;
the planet gear engages with the power-receiving gear when the operation
lever is in the first state; and

the planet gear is disengaged from the power-receiving gear when the
operation lever is in the second state.

5. (Original) The paper feed device according to claim 1, wherein when the
operation lever is switched from the first state to the second state, the setting plate goes down
due to weight of the setting plate.

6. (Original) The paper feed device according to claim 1, wherein when the operation lever is in the second state, a user is capable of stacking additional sheets of paper on the setting plate.

7. (Original) The paper feed device according to claim 1, wherein:

when the operation lever is in the first state, the operation lever is substantially perpendicular to the setting plate; and

when the operation lever is in the second state, the operation lever is substantially parallel to the setting plate.

8. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a paper feed device which feeds a sheet of paper; and

a recording device which forms an image on the sheet of paper fed from the paper feed device, wherein:

the paper feed device includes:

a setting plate on which a plurality of sheets of paper are placed;

a support unit which elevatably supports the setting plate, and elevates the setting plate when the support unit receives a driving force;

a power transmission mechanism engageable with the support unit to transmit the driving force to the support unit;

a driving unit which drives operatively connected to the power transmission mechanism to provide the driving force via the power transmission mechanism to the support unit so that a uppermost sheet of paper placed on the setting plate is positioned at a predetermined height for feeding the sheets of paper;

— a power transmission mechanism which transmits the driving force from the driving unit to the support unit;

a link mechanism ~~which cuts that includes a first portion and a second portion, the first portion connected to the power transmission mechanism to cut off the transmission of the driving force to the support unit; and~~

~~an operation lever which is operatively connected to the second portion of the link mechanism, the operation lever being switched between a first state and a second state;~~

when the operation lever is in the first state, the power transmission mechanism transmits the driving force to the support unit;

when the operation lever is in the second state, the link mechanism ~~cuts disconnects the power transmission mechanism from the support unit to cut off the transmission of the driving force to the support unit; and~~

~~the support unit is disengaged from the driving unit by an operation of the link mechanism.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A paper feed device, comprising:

a setting plate on which a plurality of sheets of paper are placed;

a support unit which elevatably supports the setting plate, and elevates the setting plate when the support unit receives a driving force;

a power transmission mechanism ~~which transmits a engageable with the support unit to transmit the driving force, which may be supplied from an external driving unit,~~ to the support unit;

a link mechanism ~~which cuts that includes a first portion and a second portion, the first portion connected to the power transmission mechanism to cut off the transmission of the driving force to the support unit; and~~

an operation lever, ~~which is operatively connected to the second portion of the link mechanism, the operation lever being~~ switched between a first state and a second state, wherein:

when the operation lever is in the first state and the driving force is supplied from the external driving unit, the power transmission mechanism transmits the driving force to the support unit;

when the operation lever is in the second state, the link mechanism ~~cuts~~ disconnects the power transmission mechanism from the support unit to cut off the transmission of the driving force to the support unit; and

~~the support unit is disengaged from the driving unit by an operation of the link mechanism.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The paper feed device according to claim 9, wherein when the operation lever is in the first state, the operation lever abuts against ~~one-an~~ end edges ~~edge of each~~ of the sheets of paper placed on the setting plate to align the ~~one-end~~ edges ~~edge of each~~ of the sheets of paper.

11. (Original) The paper feed device according to claim 10, wherein when the operation lever is in the first state, a position where the operation lever abuts against the sheets of paper is adjustable.

12. (Currently Amended) The paper feed device according to claim 9, wherein when the operation lever is in the first state and the driving force is not supplied from the external driving unit, the support unit and the power transmission mechanism ~~maintains~~ maintain a height of the setting plate.

13. (Currently Amended) The paper feed device according to claim 9, wherein: the support unit includes a power-receiving gear, which moves up the setting plate when the power-receiving gear is rotated in one direction;

the power transmission mechanism includes:

a sun gear rotated by the driving force supplied from the external
driving unit; and

a planet gear, which revolves around the sun gear;

the planet gear engages with the power-receiving gear when the operation lever is in the first state; and

the planet gear is disengaged from the power-receiving gear when the operation lever is in the second state.

14. (Original) The paper feed device according to claim 9, wherein when the operation lever is switched from the first state to the second state, the setting plate goes down due to weight of the setting plate.

15. (Original) The paper feed device according to claim 9, wherein when the operation lever is in the second state, a user is capable of stacking additional sheets of paper on the setting plate.

16. (Original) The paper feed device according to claim 9, wherein:
when the operation lever is in the first state, the operation lever is substantially perpendicular to the setting plate; and
when the operation lever is in the second state, the operation lever is substantially parallel to the setting plate.